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Washington, D.C.

1909

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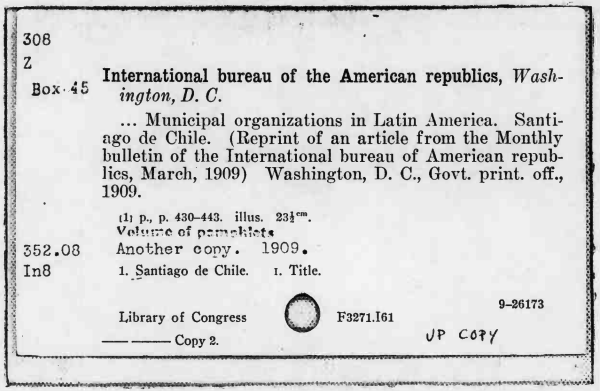

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FRANCISCO J. YÁNES, SECRETARY

MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

SANTIAGO DE CHILE

(Reprint of an article from the Monthly Bulletin of the International Bureau of American Republics, March, 1909)

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OCT 7 1912

MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION IN THE LATIN-AMERICAN CAPITALS

SANTIAGO DE CHILE.

SANTIAGO lies at the head of the great central valley of Chile on the Mapocho River. To the west, the Cordillera of the Coast stretches north and south, a range of hills and low mountains parallel with and near to the Pacific.

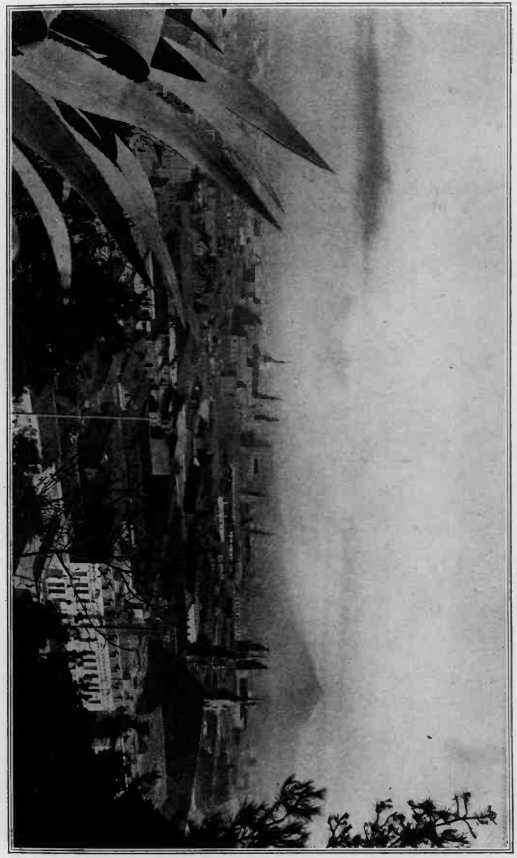
This range now represents the worn-down remnants of what was once a great mountain system and the oldest land in the southern half of South America.

To the east rises in magnificent grandeur that great fold of the earth's crust known as the Cordillera of the Andes. The Andes are new mountains, with their angularity and roughness unworn and unsmoothed by long-continued action of the elements. Between the two cordilleras, the old and the new, lies the central valley of Chile, shut off at the north by a spur of the Andes extending to the coast. At the foot of this spur lies Santiago.

By railway from Valparaiso one arrives at the capital unexpectedly. After leaving Llai-llai the line runs through a more or less barren country, rough and rocky, and then suddenly from out of this wilderness the train enters a long street between walls and houses, and the traveler finds himself almost in the center of a large city and at the beginning of the most beautiful street in that city.

This street, the Alameda, is one of the beautiful avenues of South America. It is a fine, broad driveway planted with a double row of gigantic poplars and lined for its greater length with fine buildings. The promenade in the center is set with statues erected to the memory of the heroes of the war of independence, SAN MARTIN, O'HIGGINS, FREIRE, MOLINA, CARRERA, and others.

The most notable natural feature of Santiago is the hill or rock of Santa Lucia, 300 feet in height, which rises almost from the heart of the city. On Santa Lucia, PEDRO DE VALDIVIA established his stronghold, and around its base he founded the first town in Chile, which he named after the patron saint of Spain. The town was laid out in squares, as it is to-day, with the lines running east and west and north and south.



A VIEW OF SANTIAGO, CHILE.

The capital of Chile was founded in 1541 by Pedro de Valdivia. It lies on a fertile plain on the banks of the Mapocho River, near the foot of the Andes, at an elevation of about 1,800 feet above sea level, and has a population of nearly 400,000 inhabitants. It is connected by rail with Valparaiso, 42 miles distant, which is its seaport. Santiago is noted for its beautiful parks and the splendid architecture of its buildings.

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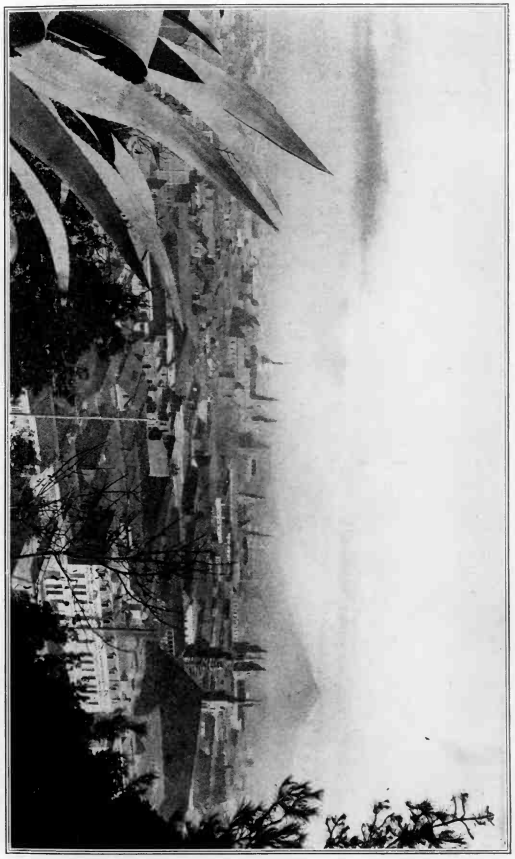

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To each of VALDIVIA's followers was given one square for a garden and upon which to build his house. After the conquest, for four hundred years Santa Lucia remained what it was in VALDIVIA's time, a bold and unsightly rock rising out of the midst of the growing city.

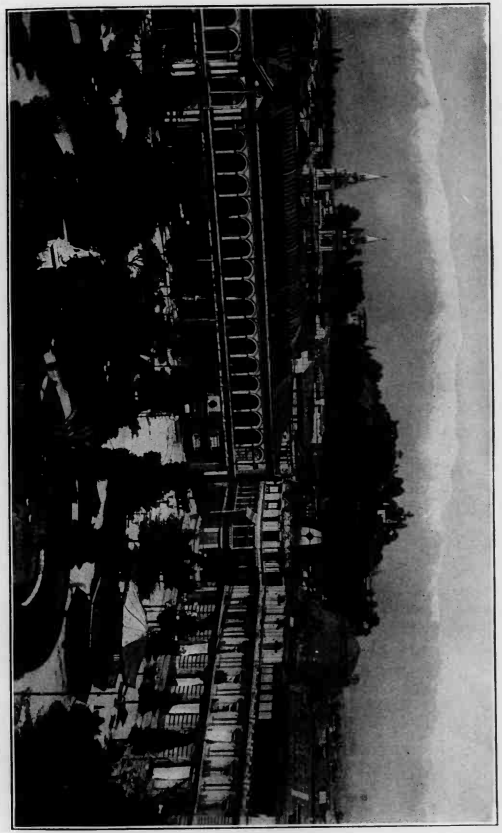
After it ceased to be a stronghold and refuge from the Indians, it had no use until about a hundred years ago, when it began to be used as a Protestant cemetery. Near the close of the nineteenth century Santiago determined to convert this unsightly eminence into the beautiful park it is to-day. The necessary expense was borne, not alone by the Government and the municipality, but, in a large measure, by private contribution. The scheme included not only the beautification of Santa Lucia, but also the laying out of other parks, the broadening and repaving of streets, and, what was the greatest work of all, the rebuilding of the Alameda de las Delicias, the Via Appia of Santiago. Cousiño Park, one of the most popular retreats in Santiago, is named after Don LUIS COUSIÑO, who donated the park of 330 acres to the city.

Beginning in 1872, under the administration of Don BENJAMIN VICUÑA MACKENNA, the improvement of Santiago has been continued down to the present time.

When Santiago was merely a Spanish colonial village on the banks of the Mapocho River, the Alameda de las Delicias was the ordinary main highway leading to the town. Much of the land over which the road passed was low and marshy, and for a distance it occupied what had been the bed of a small branch of the Mapocho. As late as fifty years ago it was an ill-kept and most unattractive thoroughfare, paved with rough, uneven, and ill-set stones. To-day it is a broad avenue, 350 feet wide and nearly 3 miles long, extending across the city from the hill of Santa Lucia to the Central Railway Station. Trees and flowers are everywhere interspersed with fountains, statuary, and other works of art.

Two of the most noted pieces of statuary are the equestrian statues of SAN MARTIN and O'HIGGINS. The celebrated liberator, General JOSÉ SAN MARTIN, who led the patriot army across the Andes in the cause of Chilean independence, is represented holding in his hand the standard of liberty, the horse thrown back on his haunches. General BERNARDO O'HIGGINS, "the bravest of the brave," is shown with sword extended at arm's length in air, his horse in the act of leaping some obstacle on the battlefield of Rancagua.

Santa Lucia is now one of the most remarkable parks in existence. The whole hill presents one mass, almost bewildering, of grottoes, terraces, stairways, stucco work of all kinds, planted with a luxuriant growth of semitropical vegetation through which paths wind in and out to shady nooks or observation points. The view from any one of these points is most attractive. At the foot, the city with a popula-



VIEW OF A SECTION OF THE PLAZA DE ARMAS, SANTIAGO, CHILE, SHOWING A PORTION OF THE CAPITAL CITY IN THE DIRECTION OF SANTA LUCIA HILL, A POPULAR BREATHING PLACE AND PROMENADE FOR THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY.

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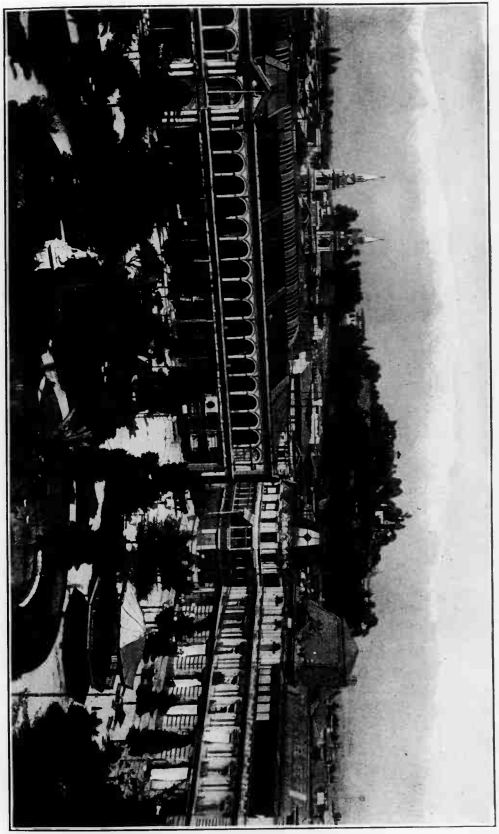

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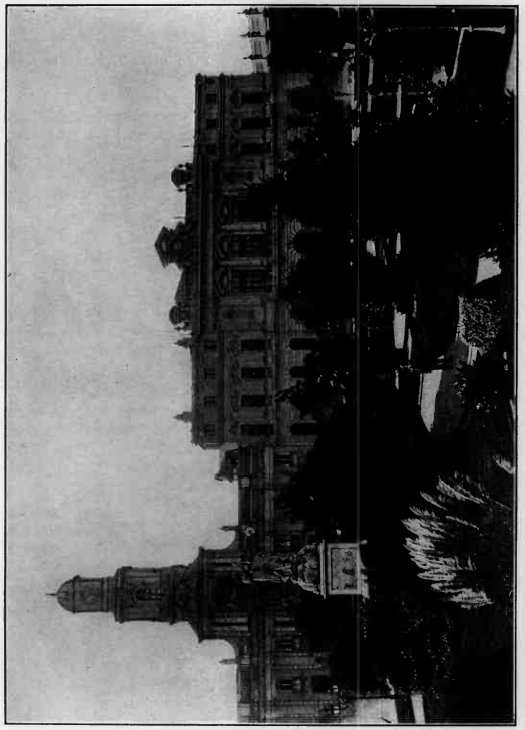


PLAZA DE LA INDEPENDENCIA, SANTIAGO.

The plaza, which is also known as Plaza de Armas, is the principal one of Chile, and furnishes music in the evenings. The building to the right is the municipal palace, and the statue on the left represents America receiving the baptism of fire of Independence.

tion of 400,000 stretches out around the hill and on both sides of the Mapocho, with parks large and small relieving the geometrical regularity of rectangular crossings. Through the whole cuts the broad Alameda lined with stately and beautiful buildings with the broad promenade down the middle masked in a floral wealth of almost tropic luxuriance.

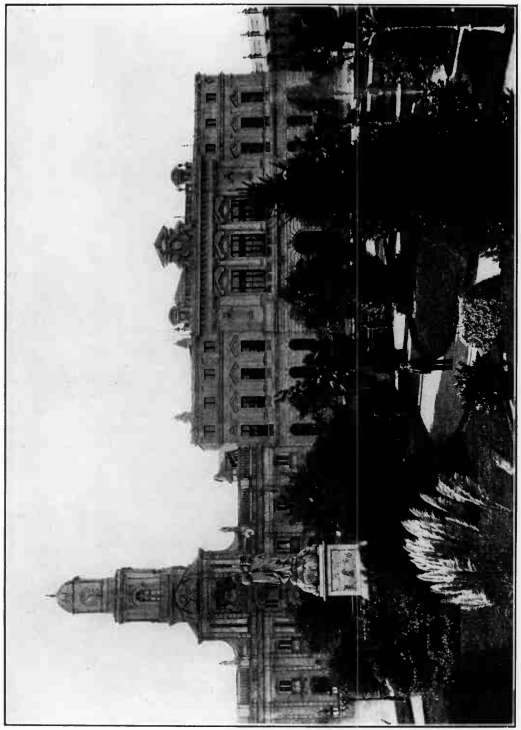
To the east and northeast, seemingly almost within touch, rise 17,000 feet in air the rugged and overpowering Andes, jagged, scarred, snowcapped, and awe inspiring. To the west the low coast range shuts off the ocean, and to the south, spreading out until lost in the distance, lies one of the garden spots of the world, the rich Central Valley of Chile. There appear to be no foothills; the Andes rise abruptly from the plains, making the picture as seen from the crest of Santa Lucia the more perfect and satisfying.

Among the most striking buildings in Santiago are: La Moneda, the residence of the President of the Republic, in which are located also the offices of several of the Government departments; the national Congress Hall, a modern construction of vast size and magnificent architecture; the Intendancy of the province and the city hall, in which are installed the principal offices of local administration; the cathedral, which has been completely reconstructed and adjoining which is the archiepiscopal palace, the residence of the Metropolitan of Chile; the post-office, a modern and handsome building; the National Library, a large edifice covering 22,000 square feet, containing about 15,000 volumes; the Palace of Justice, in which the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, and several minor courts and offices are located; the Army Building, the headquarters of the army, and also the barracks of the President's guard of honor.

Other public buildings are the Municipal Theater, one of the best in America; the Palace of the Exposition, the University, the Ordnance Building, Medical School, School of Arts and Trades, Astronomical Observatory, Home for Orphans, Insane Asylum, Agricultural Institute, National Conservatory of Music, and the Catholic Seminary.

Near the Cousiño Park is the racing park, one of the most popular meeting places in the city.

The Agricultural School Farm, one of the most interesting and valuable centers of instruction, covers 320 acres and was founded in 1842. Connected with the school farm are several institutes—the botanical garden with four large conservatories containing several thousand plants; the agricultural institute, which has under its charge the higher branches of agriculture; the agricultural training school, whose principal aim is to create specialties in agriculture, having, with other dependencies, departments of viticulture and viniculture; vaccine institute, veterinary institute, and laboratories devoted to



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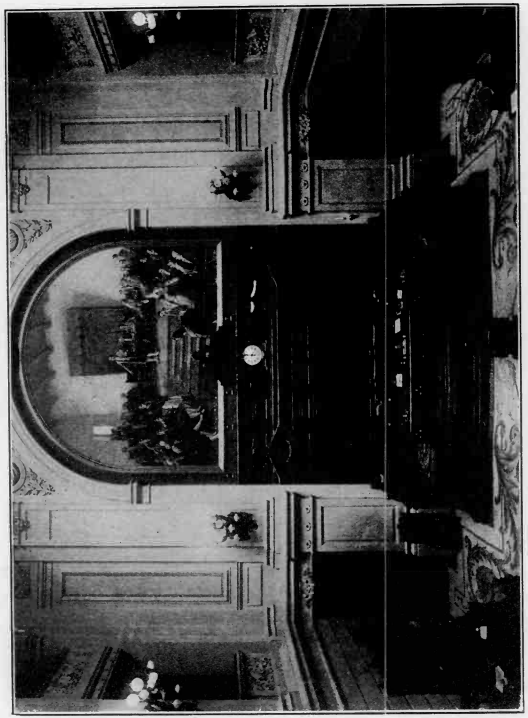


SENATE CHAMBER OF THE CHILEAN CONGRESS.

The Capitol of Chile is considered one of the handsomest public structures in South America. It is rectangular in shape, measuring 250 by 256 feet and occupying the entire square. The painting shown in this view represents the meeting of the First Congress of Chile, at which the Constitution was framed and adopted.

agricultural chemistry and vegetable pathology. Agricultural instruction is free and is supported by government.

Mining instruction is given in the university and in a special school devoted to training mine superintendents.

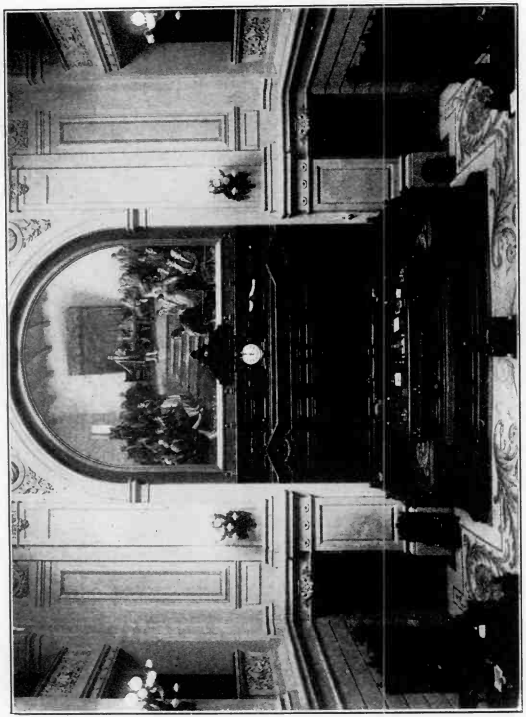
Industrial instruction in most branches has been very highly organized both in the university and in the School of Arts and Trades. This institute is one of the most important in the country. The *Sociedad de Fomento Fabril* has founded and manages schools of industrial drawing, modeling, and electricity. A commercial technical institute has over 500 pupils.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE, SANTIAGO, CHILE.

This government institution was founded in 1843, with Don Andres Bello, a philologist of world-wide reputation, as its first president. The courses of study in its several schools cover a period of five to seven years.

The university offers instruction through faculties of law, medicine, and engineering. Courses in law and engineering are five years each; medicine is a six years' course. The School of Medicine in particular enjoys a very high reputation in all Latin-American countries. The Institute of Pedagogy is for the preparation of teachers in schools of secondary instruction and the two normal schools for teachers in primary schools.

The Board of Public Hygiene has charge of matters of sanitation. The Institute of Hygiene, directed by the board, is divided into five departments—hygiene and statistics, chemistry and toxicology, microscopy and bacteriology, seroterapathy, and disinfection. In



SENATE CHAMBER OF THE CHILEAN CONGRESS.

The Capitol of Chile is considered one of the handsomest public structures in South America. It is rectangular in shape, measuring 230 feet in length and 150 feet in width. The building shown in this view represents the meeting of the First Congress of Chile, at which the Constitution was framed and adopted.

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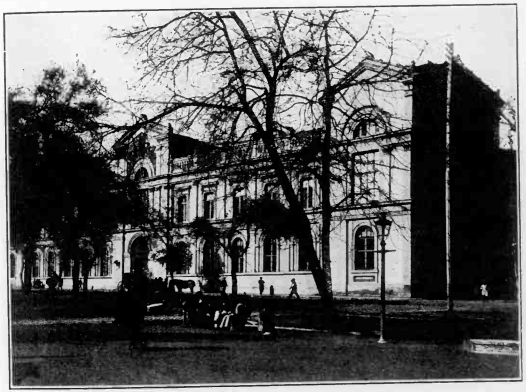

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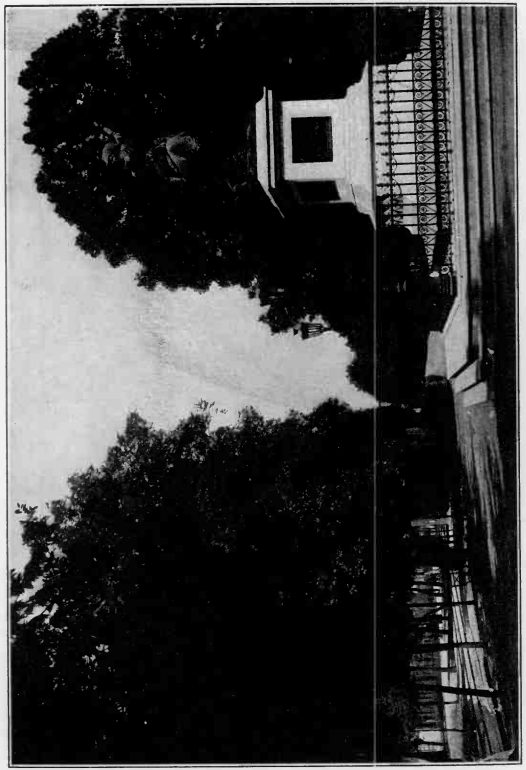


THE ALAMEDA, SANTIAGO, CHILE.

The boulevard extends some distance along the foothills of the Andes, forming a magnificent driveway and promenade in one of the most beautiful and desirable residence sections of the capital. Formerly it was lined with two rows of massive poplars. Recent improvements caused the destruction of many of these giants, although other trees planted in their stead are rapidly restoring the avenue to its former beauty.

addition there are special departments of public health having charge of matters pertaining to infectious diseases, vaccination, and chemical study and analysis of food products.

One of the most important establishments for securing instruction is the National Institute, with a roll of about 1,500 matriculates.

Private and church schools supply instruction to about 30,000 pupils a year, and instruction in the fine arts is given in the School of Fine Arts and in the Conservatory of Music.

Military instruction is given in the Military School, which corresponds to West Point in the United States, and where young men in preparation to become army officers are educated; also in the War

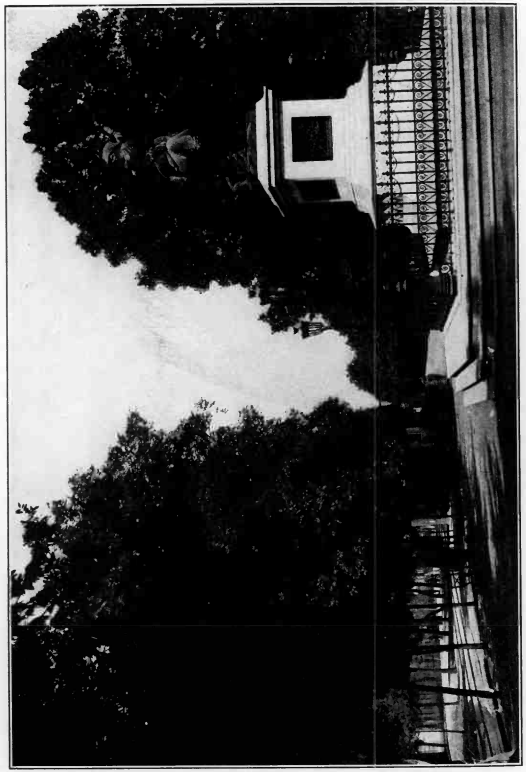
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SANTIAGO, CHILE.

The library contains more than 150,000 volumes and manuscripts, and circulates about 40,000 volumes annually. To the left is a statue of Don Andres Bello, first president of the National University of Chile, who, although born in Venezuela, spent most of his life in Chile working for the intellectual uplift of its people.

School, attended by army officers of all grades and where the higher branches of military art are studied; in the Target Practice School, which is specially devoted to practice and instruction in ballistics, and the School for Non-commissioned Officers, where young men are prepared for the lower grades of army command.

The city of Santiago is a municipality in the Department of Santiago, Province of Santiago.

The idea of communal autonomy, so common and basic, not only in the political economy of Greece and Rome, but also in that of the Teutonic and Sclav races of the north and east of Europe, has had



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SOLDIER OF A CHILEAN CAVALRY REGIMENT ON A WAR FOOTING.

The military organization of Chile is modeled after the German army, and German instructors are employed with this end in view. The active army in time of peace consists of sixteen battalions of infantry, six regiments of cavalry, and seven regiments of artillery, with auxiliaries. All able-bodied citizens of Chile are obliged to serve, liability for which extends from the eighteenth to the forty-fifth year.

but scant hold in Spain since the Roman colonial period and until very recent times. It never had any foothold whatever in the Spanish colonies. As said by Señor AUGUSTIN CORREA BRAVO, one of the leading jurists of Chile, in his Commentaries on the Law of Municipal Organization:

> In Chile, as in all the old Spanish colonies, the commune was unknown until established by law. From the earliest period of the conquest the system of *encomiendas* prevailed in our country, by virtue of which the conquerors divided among themselves the land and the people inhabiting it, thereby making impossible those groupings of small proprietors and of local interests which elsewhere formed the base or were the actuating cause of the municipality. Nor was the period of political and social reconstruction which followed independence the most appropriate for promoting the organization of the commune, and the isolated efforts made in this direction were unfruitful. The habits and unprogressive customs of the colonial period continued under the new régime.

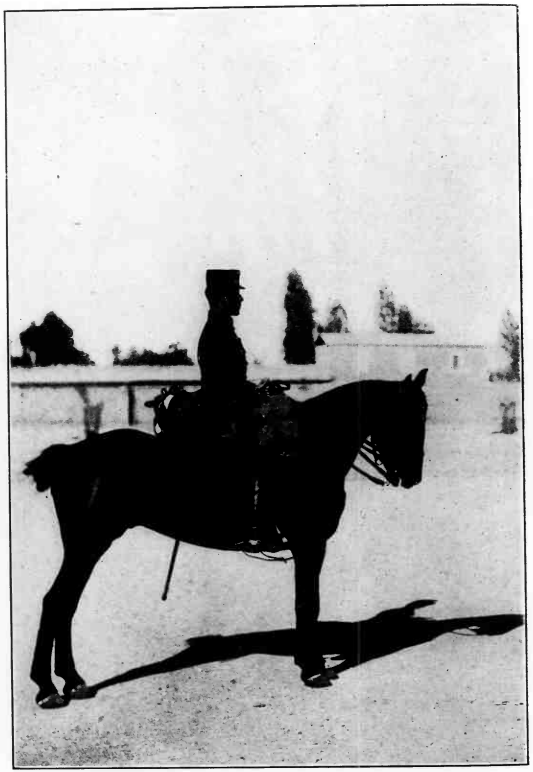
The first law in Chile having to do with the organization and attributes of municipalities was promulgated November 8, 1854, and this law was enacted for the express purpose of bolstering the system of administrative centralization against which complaints were more or less openly made. By virtue of this law all municipal services were under the immediate direction of intendentes and governors, the immediate agents of the President of the Republic. The municipal councils which had been provided for in the constitution (Art. 113) were treated as purely consultive.

The law of September 12, 1887, gave a new organization to municipal affairs and stripped the intendentes and governors of a part of the attributes they had before enjoyed. This law marks the effective establishment in Chile of municipal as opposed to centralized government of cities.

Following this law came the present organic act, the law of December 22, 1891, which is the charter and constitution of all city government in Chile. Article 2 of this act provides that the city of Santiago shall be divided into ten sections or wards (*circumscripciones*) which shall elect each three municipal councilors who together shall compose the municipal council.

The three councilors in each ward form a local board having certain local powers and duties mainly in connection with elections.

Municipal councilors are chosen by popular election. They must be citizens of at least five years' residence in the municipality, must have no interest in national or municipal contracts or supplies, and must hold no other public office or commission. The council from among its members elects three alcaldes, fixing the order of precedence among the three; also a secretary and treasurer.



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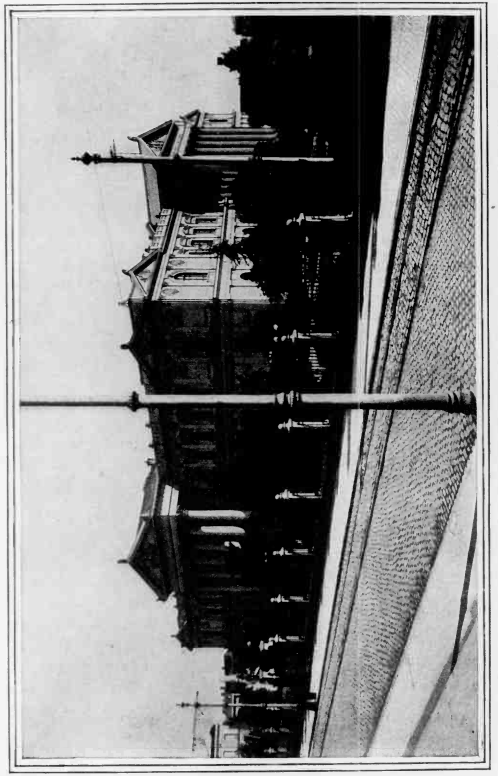
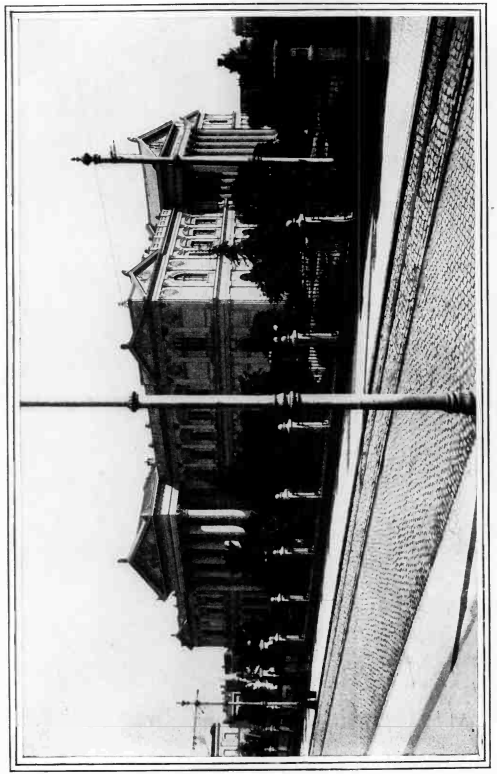


PALACE OF CONGRESS, SANTIAGO, CHILE, ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL PUBLIC EDIFICES NOTED FOR THEIR IMPOSING ARCHITECTURE.

The powers and jurisdiction of the council are of the fullest. The entire government of the city is in its hands subject only to the constitution and the organic act of December, 1891.

The municipal revenues are derived from a personal tax levied for school purposes, a personal-property tax, a tax on sale of liquors and tobacco, a license tax on industries and professions, revenues derived from city property, and an annual grant from Congress.



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